

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-11 are cancelled leaving claims 12 and 14-20 pending.

In this Amendment the limitations of dependent claim 11, which formerly depended from claim 8, and which did not already appear in independent claim 12, are added to that independent claim 12. This Amendment requires the cancellation of a limitation in claim 16 to avoid a redundancy, although not the complete cancellation of that claim.

The invention as defined by amended claim 12 is a plasma display panel that includes front and rear substrates separated by a grid of partition walls. The partition walls include generally parallel main partition walls and auxiliary partition walls. The auxiliary partition walls are both transverse to and connected to the main partition walls. The main partition walls have identical widths whereas the auxiliary partition walls have different widths. Each auxiliary partition wall is uniform with respect to its own width, but different auxiliary partition walls have different widths as illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 1 of the patent application.

Examined claims 11 and 12n were both rejected as unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent 6,489,722, hereinafter Yoshida) in view of Sakai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,498,430, hereinafter Sakai). This rejection is respectfully traversed as to the independent claim 12 now presented and its dependent claims 14-20.

Yoshida describes a plasma display panel including a grid of partition walls, all of the partition walls having uniform thickness. It appears that Yoshida contemplates discharge cells, defined by two intersecting pairs of partition walls having uniform areas. By contrast, in the invention, the discharge cells defined by intersecting and connecting auxiliary and main partition walls have different areas, depending upon the relative light efficiencies of the fluorescent substances within each discharge cell. As explained in the patent application, by varying the size of the cells, the difference in brightness of light of different color light produced by respective fluorescent substances is compensated.

Sakai describes a plasma display device that includes a plurality of parallel partition walls, which may be considered main partition walls. There is no description of a grid of partition walls, i.e., with intersecting partition walls, like the auxiliary partition walls of the invention. Sakai describes compensating for the different quantities of light produced by different fluorescent substances in the respective channels defined by the parallel partition walls to compensate for the difference in luminance produced by the

parallel partition walls to compensate for the difference in luminance produced by the different fluorescent substances. Sakai further describes making the widths of the partition walls different as one way of making the respective channels defined by the partition walls different in area. Sakai also describes using uniform widths partition walls and varying the spacing between adjacent partition walls to achieve different areas of the respective channels. Further, Sakai describes making the channels of different depths so that different surface areas of the respective fluorescent substances are exposed in different channels.

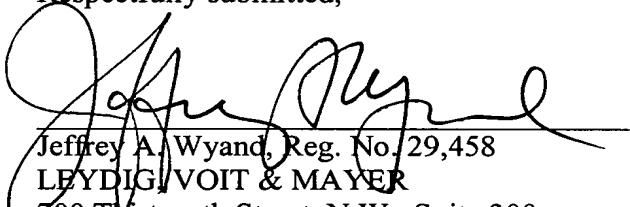
The rejection is respectfully traversed because no suggestion can be found for modifying Yoshida with Sakai to produce the invention as defined by claim 12. First, there is no suggestion for modifying the grid of partition walls described by Yoshida with the parallel partition walls, solely defining channels, not cells, as in Sakai.

Second, if there were any suggestion for modifying the structure of Yoshida with the description of Sakai, with respect to partition walls of different widths, then the modification would be that Yoshida's grid would include varying widths partition walls in each of two directions. That structure would not be the structure of claim 12 and its dependent claims in which the main partition walls are of uniform width and only the auxiliary partition walls vary in width in order to produce different size cells.

For the foregoing reasons, Sakai does not suggest a modification of Yoshida and, if there were such a suggestion and motivation for modifying Yoshida with Sakai, the resulting structure would not fall within the scope of claim 12. Accordingly, upon reconsideration, the rejection should be withdrawn not only as to amended claim 12 but as to the remaining claims so rejected, namely claims 14-20.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 21, 2003
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